Mr. E Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know what are the superior qualifications of the gentleman employed in preference to the other applicants ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The present Secretary has been a Member of this House and he has had ample opportunities of following the actual working of this House and has gained much experience.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Were they sure that other Members of this House would not have come forward if they had invited the applications ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is a problematical question and I cannot answer that.

Teaching of Hindi.

7. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether Hindi has been taught as an optional subject in any of the schools or Colleges of the State;

(2) if so, the number of schools in which it is taught?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(1) Yes; in schools only.

(2) Ten.

Culvert—Vallachira Panchayat Road.

8. **Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware of the inconvenience caused to the public by not constructing a culvert towards the western end of the Vallachira Panchayat road which has been recently improved;

(2) the reason why they have not provided for one when they constructed the road;

(3) whether they have received petitions from the inhabitants of Vallachira praying for the construction of a tank in the village;

(4) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, what they propose to do in the matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) Yes.

(2) It was then thought that an Irish drain would serve the purpose.

(3) Yes.

(4) Necessary enquiries are being made.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Did the original budget for the improvement of the road include the construction of the culvert ?

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No. The answer to sub-division (2) makes it clear.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—That was my information.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—So far as I know no culvert has been included.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Was an Irish drain constructed there?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I think it has been.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What is the complaint they have received?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—That an Irish drain does not serve the purpose. A culvert alone will answer the purpose. Therefore it was not thought necessary to replace this.

Revised pay—Education Department.

9. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) was any difference shown between Sirkar schools and aided schools in the matter of giving effect to the revised pay;

(b) is there any special reason for showing this difference;

(c) were there not complaints from individual teachers of aided schools regarding this invidious distinction?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) Want of funds.

(c) There were complaints. But the distinction is not 'invidious'.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—May I know what could have been the approximate amount required to put the aided school teachers also just as the others?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—I do not exactly remember. If the information is necessary it will be supplied.

Public cart-stand—Vadakkancheri.

10. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House:—

(a) whether any communication has been received from the Vadakkancheri Panchayat for putting up a public cart-stand in Vadakkancheri or Ottupara;

(b) whether the Government has inquired into the matter and seen the necessity for having one;

(c) what reply, if any, has been given to the Panchayat;

(d) will the correspondence regarding the same be made available to the House?

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